

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-14, 16 and 17 are pending and rejected in this application. Claims 1, 9 and 16 are amended hereby.

Responsive to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-7, 9-14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,367,005 (Douty, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,203,397 (Bandyopadhyay), Applicants have amended claims 1,9 and 16.

Douty, et al. disclose a strain relief cover on cable 10 that terminates a cable 12. Each cover member 14 and 16 includes an inwardly bowed, conductor gripping portion 22 having a plurality of inwardly directed integral teeth 24 thereon. Teeth 24 are staggered with respect to each other so as to form an inter-digitating pattern. The shape of the teeth is of little consequence to the functionality of the invention (column 2, line 21-37).

Bandyopadhyay discloses a heating assembly for a die casting machine. Conductors 16 can be surrounded by a sleeve of fiberglass, a portion of which is shown at 20 in the figure (column 5, lines 3-5).

In contrast, claim 1, as amended recites in part:

said pointed projections engage said fiberglass sleeve and separate at least a portion of said plurality of electrical conductors between said pointed projections.

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Douty, et al., Bandyopadhyay or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and include distinct advantages thereover.

Douty, et al. disclose a strain relief cover on a cable with the shape of teeth being of little consequence to the invention. Bandyopadhyay discloses a heating assembly for a die casting machine surrounded by a sleeve of fiberglass. Douty, et al. disclose teeth in a connector shell that

are flat on top and are not pointed projections. Further, the teeth of Douty et al. compress against the conductors, rather than separate them, as shown in Fig. 5 thereof. Therefore, Douty, et al., Bandyopadhyay and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest the pointed projections engage the fiberglass sleeve and separating at least a portion of the plurality of electrical conductors between the pointed projections, as recited in claim 1.

An advantage of Applicants' invention is that the teeth are shaped to pierce and retain a fiberglass sleeve surrounding the conductors. Also advantageously the shape of the teeth separate the conductors rather than piercing or compressing the insulation that surrounds the conductors. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 1, and claims 2-7 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 9, as amended recites in part:

said pointed projections engage said fiberglass sleeve and separate at least a portion of said plurality of electrical conductors between said pointed projections.

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Douty, et al., Bandyopadhyay or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and include distinct advantages thereover.

Douty, et al. disclose a strain relief cover on a cable with the shape of teeth being of little consequence to the invention. Bandyopadhyay discloses a heating assembly for a die casting machine surrounded by a sleeve of fiberglass. Douty, et al. disclose teeth in a connector shell that are flat on top and are not pointed projections. Further, the teeth of Douty et al. compress against the conductors, rather than separate them, as shown in Fig. 5 thereof. Therefore, Douty, et al., Bandyopadhyay and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose,

teach or suggest the pointed projections engage the fiberglass sleeve and separating at least a portion of the plurality of electrical conductors between the pointed projections, as recited in claim 9.

An advantage of Applicants' invention is that the teeth are shaped to pierce and retain a fiberglass sleeve surrounding the conductors. Also advantageously the shape of the teeth separate the conductors rather than piercing or compressing the insulation that surrounds the conductors. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 9, and claims 10-14 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In still further contrast, claim 16, as amended recites in part:

separating at least a portion of said electrical conductors with said projections.

(Emphasis added). Applicants submit that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Douty, et al., Bandyopadhyay or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and include distinct advantages thereover.

Douty, et al. disclose a strain relief cover on a cable with the shape of teeth being of little consequence to the invention. Bandyopadhyay discloses a heating assembly for a die casting machine surrounded by a sleeve of fiberglass. Douty, et al. disclose teeth in a connector shell that are flat on top and are not pointed projections. Further, the teeth of Douty et al. compress against the conductors, rather than separate them, as shown in Fig. 5 thereof. Therefore, Douty, et al., Bandyopadhyay and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest the step of separating at least a portion of the electrical conductors with the projections, as recited in claim 16.

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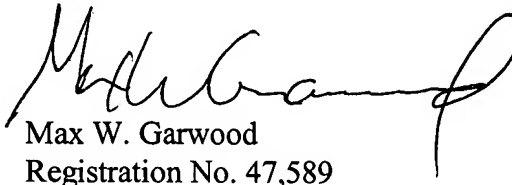
the conductors rather than piercing or compressing the insulation that surrounds the conductors. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claim 16, and claim 17 depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,


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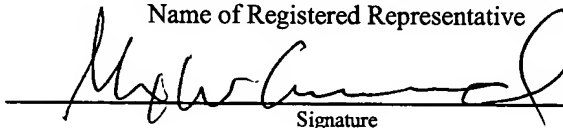
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Max W. Garwood, Reg. No. 47,589

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Signature

March 5, 2004

Date